

# Drunk Driving

What Side Will You Be On?



# The Deep Roots of Booze

- Jugs that contained beer have been found in sites dating to the late Stone Age
- Fortunately, cave men didn't drive



# Modern Consequences

- DWI/DUI arrests and trials
- Suspended/revoked drivers licenses
- Confiscated vehicle plates
- Impounded vehicles
- Arrests for open containers
- Fines and jail terms for drunk driving
- Mandatory alcohol education





# Costs and Carnage

- 16,885 alcohol-related traffic deaths in 2005—an average of one every 31 minutes.
- 86% were in crashes where at least one driver or victim had a BAC of .08 or higher
- Drinking is one of the most common factors in mishap involving Sailors aged 18-to-25.



# Alcohol-Related Wrecks



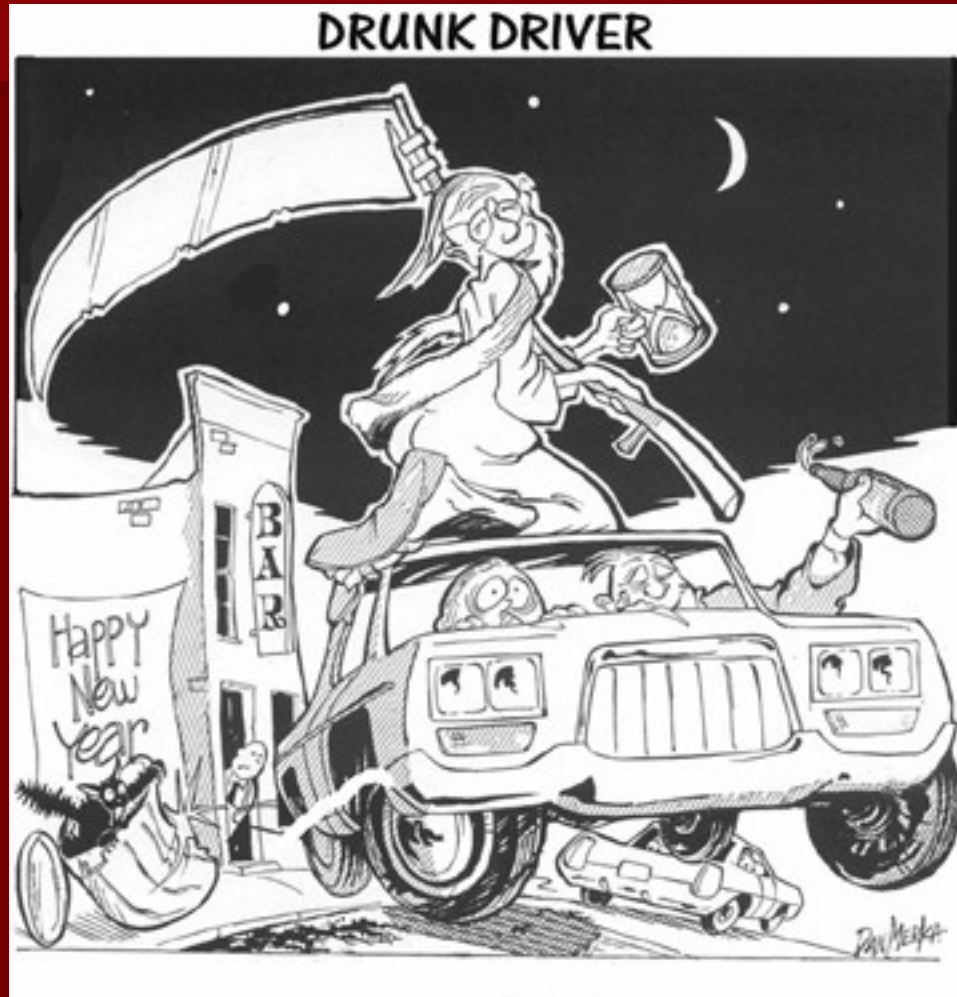
- Four out of ten traffic deaths are alcohol-related: either the driver or a victim had been drinking.
- “Alcohol-related” means at least one of the people involved has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .01 or higher.

# Drinking makes wrecks worse



- Among 15- to 20-year-old drivers killed in wrecks in 2005, 28 percent had been drinking.
- The more you drink, the worse the wreck. For 15- to 20-year-old drivers who had been drinking and crashed during 2005, 2 percent of the wrecks only damaged property; 4 percent injured someone; and 21 percent killed someone.

# What's it cost?



- An estimated 254,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present.
- Of the drivers who are killed in wrecks, about twice as many males (39%) had BACs at or above 0.08 compared to females (19 percent). The percentage was highest among males ages 21-40.



# Danger after dark



- Alcohol involvement in fatal crashes peaks at night.
- For wrecks between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., 58 percent of the fatally injured drivers had BACs at or above 0.08, compared with 19 percent during other hours.



# More fatal factors

- 45% of the drivers fatally injured on weekends (6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Monday) have BACs at or above 0.08, compared with 24 percent at other times.
- Only 28% of the fatally injured drivers involved in nighttime single-vehicle crashes had no alcohol in their blood.



# Strict Laws

- All states now have a law defining “impairment” as driving with a BAC at or above 0.08, and making it illegal.
- All states also have “zero tolerance” laws that prohibit people younger than 21 from driving after drinking. These laws usually prohibit driving with a BAC of 0.02 or greater.



Shatter

# More Than a Million Arrests

- In 2004, the FBI estimated that more than 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs—an arrest rate of 1 for every 139 licensed drivers in the U.S.





# When the risk goes up



- The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than three times higher at night as during the day (59% versus 18%).
- In 2005, 30 percent of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 52% on weekends.

# When the risk goes up, cont.

- The highest percentage of drivers in fatal crashes who had BAC levels of .08 or higher were ages 21 to 24.
- A BAC as low as 0.02 has been shown to affect driving ability.
- The probability of a fatal crash rises significantly after 0.05, and even more rapidly after about 0.08.



# More drinks = Fewer seatbelts



- Drunk drivers are much less likely to be wearing seatbelts.
- Safety belts were used by only 28 percent of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels .08 or higher, compared to 56 percent of fatally injured drivers who were sober.



# Alcohol adds more risks

- Drivers are less likely to use seatbelts when they have been drinking.
- In 2005, 74 percent of the 15- to 20-year-old drivers killed in fatal crashes who had been drinking weren't wearing seatbelts.
- Drivers with BAC levels .08 or higher involved in fatal crashes were nine times more likely to have a prior conviction for driving while impaired than were sober drivers.

# The Truth



- Just because you don't look or act drunk, that doesn't mean you're OK. Many alcohol-impaired drivers don't look drunk in the traditional way.

# “Just one” may be more than you think

- Studies have shown that at BACs as low as 0.02, alcohol interferes with your ability behind the wheel and makes it more likely you'll crash.
- The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at 0.05 BAC and climbs rapidly after about 0.08.





# Spotting a drunk driver

## Tell-tale behaviors of DUI/DWI drivers:

- Driving too fast or too slow for road conditions.
- Weaving or drifting across the center line, between lanes of traffic, and the side of the road
- Using turn signals when they aren't required.
- Swerving.
- Suddenly accelerating, hitting the brakes or stopping for no apparent reason.

# Spotting a drunk driver, cont.

- Driving with the headlights off after dark.
- Swinging too wide when turning.
- Stopping abruptly at red lights or stop signs.
- Starting too slowly when a traffic light turns green.
- Narrowly missing other cars or objects.
- Turning abruptly or illegally.

What part of this sign is hard to understand?

